

Schools
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THE TASTERS: M

MICHAEL PUGH/Staff
heaven during the sampling.

July 6, 1988

DeKalb Neighbor



DeKalb students learn their heritage

DeKalb students at Midvale Elementary School got a chance to learn some living history and show off something of their own heritage just before summer vacation. In addition to Colonial craft demonstrations, students and teachers wore traditional costumes illustrating their own heritage. Chong So, left, and Si

Hwang Chin, right, show off their Korean heritage while looking at a handmade quilt with Midvale Principal Pam Bouie, who is dressed in Colonial costume. Chong is the son of So and Sang Chol and Si Hwang is the son of Yong and Kyong Chin. (Staff photo by F.C. Palm)

Girls troop through land of chocolate while eating their way to No. 1 recipe

□ TRENDS IN BROWNIES

6F

By Anne Byrn Phillips
Food Editor

We struck a chocolate goldmine. In search of the South's best brownie recipe we asked readers several weeks ago to send us their most gooey, most chewy, most chocolately brownie formula. Although a meager \$50 cash prize awaited the winner, it was obviously not a real incentive since more than 650 of you not only sent in your recipe but the history of it and enough propaganda to steer the less-than-clear-headed judge way off course.

From those recipes we culled and tested, tasted and evaluated and came up with eight recipes worthy of heading to a final tasting before the distinguished panel of judges pictured on this page.

The judges, members of Brownie Troop 225 from Midvale Elementary School, Tucker, considered themselves worthy of the not-so-much-arduous-as-admired task of sampling the brownies in the late afternoon. And, besides, they promised to eat dinner when they got home.

It was a close race, but the third graders decided the Caramel Brownies submitted by Diane Camara of Marietta tasted the best. Not far behind in their opinion were the Best Brownies of Dolores Durnwald of Riverdale.

Coming in third was Atlantan Vicci Shepard's My Best Brownie recipe, fourth was Cream Cheese Brownies from Louise McLendon of Stone Mountain and fifth was Mother's Pan Brownies from Beverly Brooks of Morrow.

Mrs. Camara's brownies made a hit with adults and children alike because they sandwiched melted caramel between two layers of chewy brownie. The recipe came from a neighbor of Mrs. Camara's when she lived in Rochester, Minn., before moving to Marietta two months ago. The winner said she enjoys baking and her two children Annette, 13, and Jonathan, 8, are her willing tasters.

Ms. Durnwald's cocoa brownies were baked in a glass pan and covered with a simple boiled frosting made from butter, milk, sugar and chocolate chips. The recipe carries well and is perfect picnic material, easily removed from the pan.

Honorary mention should go to Debbie Ransom of Bremen for Oatmeal Brownies, Mrs. Tim Kiger of Austell for Fudge Brownies and Debbie Sacketti of Atlanta for her Best Brownies.

Prior to the finals, 50 well-chosen recipes had been home-tested by Dacula Elementary School teachers Joy Carpenter, Rhonda Elliott, Celia Thompson, Debbie Ransom, Deloris Mullins, Sharline Sibley and Terri Schraudenbach, as well as avid cooks Jimmy Bentley, Heather Tangren, Alice Baxter and Erin Anderson. Bentley said he felt so close to his batch of recipes after the Saturday afternoon cooking session with wife Gwen he wanted to telephone the

readers whose recipes he was testing and discuss the use of chocolate, the baking times, etc.

And the Dacula teachers were inspired by the creativity the recipes revealed. With much enthusiasm they tackled the task and await another testing project.

Chocolate was used in most of the recipes. And brownies are a passion with most Americans because of our affection, or make that love affair, with chocolate. It's estimated that the average American consumes 9.5 pounds of chocolate per year. A total of 2 billion pounds of chocolate are consumed in the United States annually, and nearly 50 percent of all American consumers buy chocolate for home use in desserts. That is double the 1977 level.

The recipes, chocolate and not-so-chocolate, were all worth reading and stashing aside for baking on a rainy afternoon. Most of them had been prepared countless times before for church suppers, Fourth of July picnics and University of Georgia football tailgate parties.

Kevin Wolman of Atlanta was so proud of his wife Judy's brownies that he sent the recipe for "My Judy's Brownies" and said, "The award check should be made out to her." And Barbara Driver of Jonesboro entered her Applesauce Brownies "at the insistence of my 10-year-old daughter who thinks they are the greatest."

It was Emily Glasser of Decatur who sent in her dark chocolate recipe that has been in the family for four generations.

From teenagers to folks over 65, they were all brownie submitters. Seventeen-year-old Barbara Creasy of Stone Mountain High School sent in "Easy Brownies" and 14½-year-old Kera Wheelchel of Stone Mountain took you through her recipe with the same precision an air traffic controller lands a 747 jet.

Of course, there were some clowns.

Charlie Hebb of Decatur said the best brownies in Atlanta were found at Sears Roebuck Stores. Hebb did, however, send in a short recipe for brownies:

"Gas up the car. Go get some. Eat 'em."

Elizabeth Brumbaugh of Atlanta, who carries her brownies to church outings, Piedmont Park symphony concerts and keeps some at home for midnight binges, said, "My brownies haven't made me rich. They don't have a heritage of being baked by my 'foremothers.' They haven't even started a romance, although they did help perpetuate one once when I dropped a bag full of them into a man's car as a surprise for a long, lonely road trip."

Our search is over. Thanks to all who submitted their favorite brownie recipes. I not only got vicariously satiated as I read through them, but got to taste some of the semi-final entries and all of the finalists. Brownies, today. Tomorrow, chocolate chip cookies.

Here are the top five brownie recipes. When the recipes called for butter or margarine, we used butter.

Wells/Morris
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Open House At Midvale

The Midvale PTA will meet in the cafetorium at 8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 20. There will be an Open House with an opportunity to meet the teachers and visit the classrooms.

A film will be shown to the children while the parents visit the classrooms. The inspirational will be in song by the fourth grade.

The paper sale will be held Tuesday, Nov. 21, from 8 a.m. to noon.

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